ENGLISH DIALECT SOCIETY.

BRADFORD CENTRE.

An influential Local Committee has been formed for the purpose of assisting in the collection of material for the forthcoming English Dialect Dictionary, about to be published under the auspices of the above Society.

A GENERAL MEETING of Ladies and Gentlemen willing to co-operate in this work will be held in the READING-ROOM of the TECHNICAL COLLEGE (entrance, Great Horton Road), on SATURDAY, the 10th November, at Six p.m.

The Chair will be taken by Prof. C. A. FEDERER, L.C.P., Chairman of the Local Committee, and the meeting will be addressed by JOSEPH WRIGHT, M.A., Ph.D., Deputy Professor of Comparative Philology in the University of Oxford, Editor-in-Chief of the English Dialect Dictionary, who will explain the plan and scope of the work.

S. K. CRAVEN, Hon. Sec.

Bradford Observer
5-8-9-11-94.

The proposal of the English Dialect Society to commence the publication of an English Dialect Dictionary has been received with much favour in this locality, and the appeal for literary help in collecting material has also met with a cordial response from a number of persons interested in English dialectology. As the result of correspondence with Dr. Joseph Wright, of Oxford, who is the editor-in-chief, Bradford has been constituted a local centre, and a committee has been formed, of which Professor Federer is president and Mr. S. K. Craven secretary, for the collection of dialect words and phrases common to this district, or those which may have become obsolete. An important function of this committee will be that of enlisting the practical helpfulness of others in the work, and in order to give increased publicity to the new project, they have invited Dr. Wright to visit Bradford, and he will be present on Saturday next at the Technical College to give information on the subject. The English Dialect Dictionary will be a work of national importance, and will be the largest and most comprehensive dialect dictionary ever published in any country, as well as being the only one based upon strictly scientific principles.

Bradford Observer
8. 11. 94

THE ENGLISH DIALECT SOCIETY.—A local committee of the English Dialect Society has been formed for the purpose of forwarding the work of the great English Dialect Dictionary which is now being prepared under the direction of Prof. Joseph Wright, Deputy-Professor of Comparative Philology at Oxford. The following gentlemen have been formed into a Committee, with power to add to its number:—The Rev. Brian Dale, Professor Federer, Mr Wm. Cudworth, Mr Butler Wood, Mr Jonas Turner, the Rev. Thomas Clarke, Mr J. Horsfall Turner, and Mr S. K. Craven. Professor Federer was elected chairman of the Committee, and Mr S. K. Craven, of 41, Carlisle Street, Manningham, hon. sec. It is intended to hold a public meeting on Saturday next, when Prof. Wright will explain the objects of the Society. The secretary will be glad to communicate with any person who is willing to help in the collection of material for this Dictionary.

THE DEVONSHIRE DIALECT CANDIDATES FOR THE

"Telegraph" & Argus:
8. 11. 94.

BRADFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE NEW DIALECT DICTIONARY.

MEETING IN BRADFORD.

In connection with the Bradford centre of the English Dialect Society a meeting of ladies and gentlemen interested in the preparation of the new Dialect Dictionary was held at the Bradford Technical College on Saturday evening. Professor C. A. Federer, chairman of the local committee, presided over a representative attendance. In opening the meeting the CHAIRMAN said that local dialects had been looked down upon as vulgarities, but there was a great difference between a debased pronunciation and the remains of an old language. The question of whether our dialects were worth preserving needed a little consideration. He believed that our dialects had an importance of their own—a national and social importance. They represented to us the old national habits, domestic scenes, religious beliefs, superstitions; in fact the local life as it existed in the early parts of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, which were the earliest times from which the remains of our English dialects had survived. In a state of society when communities were divided from each other by almost insuperable obstacles, such as hills, rivers, moors, and mosses, each community was self-supporting and self-sufficient. The local peculiarities and characteristics which ensued required means by which they could be expressed. Further, when the natural features of a country divided the people into different communities those dialects must have survived a much longer time than in other parts. In the hills and dales of North Yorkshire there were, even at the present day, many secluded communities who, for a great part of the year, were entirely divided from each other. There the old dialects remained, and handed down to us a piece of history which was as true as, and perhaps more true than, any other history could be. Apart from that, the local dialect spoke to our hearts and touched a chord of the existence of which, perhaps, most of us were scarcely aware. Some twenty years ago Mr. Gladstone electrified the House of Commons by characterising a measure as "not jannock," and the phrase was taken as a compliment to the county of Lancashire. In concluding the chairman paid a high testimony to the abilities of Dr. Wright, who had been selected to edit the new dictionary.

Dr. WRIGHT then gave a brief outline of the scope of the projected Dialect Dictionary. He said that about 25cwt. of slips of paper had already been collected, each bearing a dialect word, but a great portion of the slips were useless because they had not been prepared carefully and legibly. What was wanted was for people who knew the dialect to read dialect books suggested by the local committee, and to copy out the dialect words and quotations. The dictionary would be confined to words which were at present in use, or had been in use since 1650. To go further back would bring them to Middle English dialects. The geography of the dialect words was also required. In North and East Yorkshire, Westmoreland, and Cumberland there was a large mixture of the Scandinavian element. When the dictionary was properly finished it would be possible to decide how the Danish element ran geographically in England. It would take him (Dr. Wright) a good twenty years to finish the task of preparing the dictionary, as the main work would require twelve years, and there would be in addition a large supplementary volume. There was no question at present of asking for funds, but helpers were required.

On the motion of the Rev. T. CLARKE, seconded by Mr. J. HORSFALL TURNER, a vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Wright for his attendance. The names of ladies and gentlemen willing to assist in the preparation of the dictionary were afterwards taken.

Bradford Observer
12. 11. 94.

Leeds Mercury
12.11.94.

ENGLISH DIALECT SOCIETY.

A meeting was held on Saturday in the Technical College, Bradford, under the auspices of the English Dialect Society, to meet Dr. Wright, of Oxford, and to discuss the collection of matter for the English Dialect Dictionary, which is in course of preparation. Professor Federer occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance.—The Chairman observed that there was a great difference between vulgarity on one side and the remains of an old language on the other side. —As to whether our dialects were worth preserving, Professor Federer said that those dialects represented to them the old national habits, religious beliefs, superstitions, and, in fact, local life as it existed in the early part of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Apart from that, however, national dialects and local dialects spoke to their hearts, of which most of them were scarcely aware. He alluded to the use by Mr. Gladstone of the word "jannock" in the House of Commons, which electrified that assembly, and was taken as a compliment to Lancashire. The English Dialect Society had commenced the collection of those words, and had selected to take charge of that work a man of that district, young in years, but already old in experience. Dr. Wright was well known not only in that district, but also throughout the whole of the country, and especially at Oxford.

Dr. Wright, who had a cordial reception, referred to the great mass of information already collected for use in connection with the Dialect Dictionary, and then said that the great difficulty they had now was to read dialect books such as were printed at Bradford and Leeds. This could not be done by persons resident in the South of England. What was wanted was for persons to combine together for the purpose of reading such books, and as soon as that had been done they could proceed to prepare the work for press. They intended inquiring into words existing now, or which had been known to exist 200 years ago. They had to fix a limit somewhere, and if they had gone further back they would have got mixed with another period. Dr. Wright proceeded to point out the advantages of a Dialect Dictionary, and then gave examples of how words should be spelt to indicate their pronunciation. He added that it was estimated it would take nearly twenty years to complete the work in connection with the dictionary. The main task would take twelve years; there would no doubt be a supplementary volume, and then there should be, it had been suggested, a summary book without the quotations, and that would take five or six years.

Questions were asked, and discussion took place, on various points, and the proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to Dr. Wright and the chairman.

THE PRESERVATION OF OUR DIALECTS.

INTERESTING MEETING IN BRADFORD.

A general meeting of ladies and gentlemen willing to co-operate in the work of collecting local dialect words was held on Saturday evening at the Technical College, Bradford, under the auspices of the English Dialect Society (Bradford Centre). There was a fair attendance. Professor C. A. Federer, president of the centre, briefly explained the objects of the meeting. The English Dialect Society was, he said, carrying on a great work in a patient, methodical, and complete manner. Local dialects had been looked down upon as vulgarities, but there was a great difference between a debased pronunciation on the one side and the remains of an old language on the other. We preserved the remains of the old classical languages, Latin and Greek. Why not, therefore, collect and preserve the English dialects? In dialects we could recognise old national habits, domestic scenes, religious beliefs, superstitions—in fact, local life as it existed in the 13th and 14th centuries. Naturally, in the North of England, where the divisions of the hills and rivers formed almost insuperable obstacles to travelling, each community was not only self-existent, but self-supported and self-sufficient. Hence sprang up also local characteristics, and then, also, local words to express local conditions and peculiarities which had no existence elsewhere. In the hills and dales of North Yorkshire the dialects had lingered, bringing down the past as truly, or more truly, than any written history. Apart from that, national and local dialect spoke to the heart and touched a chord few were wont to think existed. A dialect word for which no English equivalent could be found would in ordinary conversation awaken an entirely new group of ideas.—Professor Wright, who is engaged in compiling an English Dialect Dictionary, next spoke. The English Dialect Society was established in 1873. The object of the dialect dictionary would be to collect all dialect words which exist now or had been known to exist during the past 200 years. They could not go much farther back without getting hopelessly mixed between the dialect words and English words which had simply become obsolete. They desired to give not only a record of the words, but to fix the geography of the words. That, apart from its philological value, would have an immense value, settling not only the question of the locality, but the date also of many middle English manuscripts of which now little or nothing was known. The dictionary would also show, by the use of dialect words which could be traced to the Scandinavian language, where these people settled down in Yorkshire, Westmorland, and Northumberland.

The names of a number of ladies and gentlemen willing to interest themselves in the work of collecting dialect words were given in, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to Professor Wright.

Yorkshire Post
12. 11. 94.

THE NEW ENGLISH DIALECT DICTIONARY.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE LEEDS MERCURY.

Gentlemen,—Under the able editorship of Professor Joseph Wright, M.A., Professor of Comparative Philology in the University of Oxford, a dictionary of the various dialects still in use throughout the country is being compiled. For the purpose of collecting material for incorporation in this work, an influential committee of honorary workers has been formed in Bradford as a head centre for Yorkshire. Ladies and gentlemen in other parts of the county are asked to kindly collect and forward to the secretary any dialect words relating to their own particular district. A prospectus showing the plan and scope of the work to be done will be forwarded to any address. A list of books to be read has been compiled, and helpers can render invaluable service by undertaking to read these according to the plan laid down. Special emphasis is laid on the collection of technical terms relating to trades and operations formerly done by hand, but now in great part superseded by the use of machinery, e.g., wool-coming, hand-loom weaving, &c. In order to avoid unnecessary duplication of work, it would be advisable to communicate with the secretary, who will furnish any further information.—Yours faithfully,

S. K. CRAVEN, Hon. Secretary,
14, Carlisle-street, Bradford.

Dailies.— Dec.r 14th.94
Weeklies – Dec.r 22nd.94

Batley News.
Barnsley Chronicle
Brighouse News.
Doncaster Chron.
Halifax Courier.
Huddersfield Examiner
Hull & Linc Times.
Hull News.
Keighley News.
Leeds Mercury
Malton Messenger
Middlesbro' Exchange
Middlesbro' Wkly Gazette.
Morley Observer
Rotherham Independent.
Sheffield Independent
Sheffield D. Telegraph
Skipton Pioneer
York Herald
Yorkshire Post.

BRADFORD * PUBLIC * LIBRARY.

Philological students and Yorkshiremen generally will be pleased to learn that an instalment of the new "English Dialect Dictionary," published under the auspices of the English Dialect Society, is within measurable distance of production. Professor Joseph Wright, of Oxford, the editor-in-chief, hopes to obtain a thousand subscribers, at £1 per annum, who in return will receive two ten-shilling parts yearly, the parts being issued at 15s. each net to non-subscribers. Should his response meet with acceptance, the work of producing the Dictionary will be at once commenced. It will be printed at the Clarendon Press, Oxford, and published by Frowde, publisher to the University.

Meanwhile a generous response is being made to the efforts of the Yorkshire Centre, located at Bradford, for contributions of dialect words to the proposed Dictionary. Professor Wright (being a West Riding man) is very anxious to obtain as complete a collection as possible of technical terms, words, and phrases used in the staple trade of Bradford. Many of these words, traced in their derivation, reveal very remote origins, and are quite unknown outside the immediate district. It is obvious, however, that only those actually engaged in the staple industry of which Bradford is the centre can supply this information, and they are invited to do so by Mr. S. K. Craven, hon. secretary, 41, Carlisle Street, Manningham, or Mr. Butler Wood, chief librarian, Darley Street, who will also be glad to receive names of readers of dialect works.

Bradford Observer.
16·1·95.

[illegible] majority of this country.

Professor Wright's helpers in the compilation of his great dictionary of dialects now number more than 600 persons in all parts of the kingdom. Publication of the work will begin in the course of a few months, but will not be completed within eight or ten years. There will, it is thought, be four volumes of about 1,000 pages each.

The death is announced of Sir William Montagu [illegible], formerly judge of the Supreme Court of New

Byd Daily Telegraph
Feb 28th 95

contributed by the congregation.

ENGLISH DIALECT DICTIONARY.—If a thousand subscribers can be found for the English Dialect Dictionary, it is intended to have the first half-yearly volume ready in June, 1896. This will consist of a bibliography of dialect publications, and the names and addresses of all helpers in and subscribers to the work. A feature of the work is to be the inclusion of American dialect words that yet are or have been in use in Great Britain and Ireland during the past two hundred years, an Executive Committee of the American Dialect Society having undertaken to supply the editor with this class of notes. E.M.S. 6.4.95

L.M.S. 6.4.95.

THE NEW ENGLISH DIALECT DICTIONARY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRADFORD OBSERVER.

SIR,—The editor of the forthcoming "Dictionary of English Dialects," Professor Joseph Wright M.A., Oxford, is desirous of incorporating in this work, as far as possible, all technical terms of a local character. More helpers are urgently needed for collecting words of this class in use throughout Yorkshire, notably those pertaining to the woollen and other textile industries, the iron trades, mining, and agriculture. If this appeal becomes widely known there should be no difficulty in obtaining a generous response, as Yorkshiremen will surely not allow such a vast field to remain unexplored. Persons interested and willing to assist in compiling lists of words of the kind indicated are invited to kindly communicate with the local secretary, who will be glad to furnish instructions and all further information.—I am, &c.,

S. K. CRAVEN, Hon. Secretary,
41, Carlisle Street, Bradford.

B.O. 1.4.95.
Ly
Post
Sheff. Tel
Hdrsfd Ch
& Yks News (Hull)

LITERARY AND ART GOSSIP.

B.D.Tel. 17.5.95

The exact form of the long-contemplated "English Dialect Dictionary," which is to comprise a complete vocabulary of all dialect words still in use or known to have been in use during the last two hundred years, is now settled. It will be published, always provided the requisite number of subscribers is forthcoming, in half-yearly parts, which will be forwarded to subscribers in return for a guinea a year, and sold to the public at fifteen shillings each net. The first part will be ready in June, 1896, and the work will be completed in about sixteen parts.

The American Dialect Society has placed at the disposal of the editor, Professor Joseph Wright, complete material for the dialects of the other side of the Atlantic. There are now competent sub-editors of the Dictionary in nearly every county. Some idea of the quantity of written information obtained may be gained from the fact that the slips relating to the letter "S" alone weigh over 2cwt.

B. D. Tel. 17. 5. 95.

Bfd Observer
Oct 3rd 1895

ENGLISH DIALECT DICTIONARY.

YORKSHIRE COMMITTEE OF WORKERS.

The WINTER SESSION (1895-6) will be OPENED by a GENERAL MEETING of WORKERS and FRIENDS, to be held on FRIDAY, October 4th, at the ROYAL HOTEL, DARLEY STREET, BRADFORD.

TEA at 6.30 p.m., after which a Meeting will be held to report on the work accomplished, and to deliberate as to the best means of furthering this work during the forthcoming winter.

Chair to be taken at 7.30. The Meeting will be addressed by Professor JOSEPH WRIGHT, M.A., Ph.D., Editor-in-Chief of the English Dialect Dictionary, who has kindly promised to be present.

Tickets for Tea, 2s. 6d. each, may be had of the Secretary,

S. K. CRAVEN, 41, Carlisle Street.

B.O. Oct 1
Oct 3. 95

Bfd Observer
Oct. 4. 95

M.A., ...
(Trowbridge), A. R. BYLES, FRED CRAVEN, J.P., G. S. BEAUMONT, GEORGE SPEIGHT, I. LISTER, and other Friends will be present and speak.

TEA will be served in the School-room from Six to Seven o'clock.

Meeting to commence at 7.30 prompt.

B.O. Oct 4 '95

ENGLISH DIALECT DICTIONARY.

YORKSHIRE COMMITTEE OF WORKERS.

PUBLIC MEETING THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING, October 4th, at the ROYAL HOTEL, Darley Street, Bradford.

TEA at 6.30.

The Meeting will be Addressed by Professor JOSEPH WRIGHT, M.A., Ph.D., Editor-in-Chief of the English Dialect Dictionary.

Chair to be taken at 7.30.

S. K. CRAVEN, Hon. Sec., 41, Carlisle Street.

THEATRE ROYAL.

Early Doors 6.30. Commence 7.30.

Special and Important Engagement of

R. D'OYLY CARTE'S PRINCIPAL REPERTOIRE CO.

TO-NIGHT (FRIDAY).

Bfd. Daily Telegraph
Oct 4th 1895

national inconvenience.

THE work of the Yorkshire Committee of the English Dialect Dictionary, which has now been continued for twelve months, is full of interest to those who are desirous of preserving the homely and expressive speech of the common people of this district. Dialect publications, though still issued, have not the popularity they attained years ago, and in face of the Board School education of the period and the increasing of people in towns, spoken dialect is likely to almost entirely disappear. Hence the timeliness of the action of the Dialect Dictionary makers. The meeting of workers and friends inaugurating the winter session will be held to-day in Bradford, and it is satisfactory to note that though their labours are far from ended, the Yorkshire Committee have already sent in not less than 10,000 slips towards their contribution to the work.

McHardy Papers

BO. Oct 6. 95

Bfd Observer. Oct 4th 1895

Observatory.

The Yorkshire Committee of Workers for the English Dialect Dictionary has now been in existence for twelve months, and this afternoon and evening a general meeting of workers and friends is to be held in Bradford to inaugurate the winter session. The object of the association is to aid Dr. Joseph Wright in the collecting of different material for the dictionary, by the independent collecting of words and phrases from the spoken language; by the reading and excerpting of books and other literature containing dialect, and the gathering together of local technical terms and phrases. The West Riding literature is exceedingiy rich in printed examples, and at the time of the formation of the committee 140 books had been read and dealt with by thirty-two local workers in direct communication with Oxford. Since that date fifty-six other ladies and gentlemen residing in different parts of Yorkshire have affiliated themselves with the committee, and by their efforts 134 more dialect works have now been read and excerpted for the purposes of the dictionary. At present thirty-five other works are undergoing the same process. By this means upwards of 8000 words, each written on a separate half-sheet of notepaper, have been sent to the editor, and extensive manuscript lists of words independently collected from all parts of the county have also been sent in. A very important function of the committee is the accumulation of words and terms peculiar to local industries as well as old techni al terms, such as those connected with hand-loom weaving and hand wool-combing. So far the efforts of the committee in this direction have been purely tentative, but some valuable work has been done, and altogether the total number of "slips" sent in through the Yorkshire Committee up to date is not less than 10,000. But at present, although the first part of the dictionary is actually in the press, the Yorkshire Committee cannot congratulate themselves that their work is anything like concluded. Between 300 and 400 books have still to be read and excerpted, for which more help is urgently needed, and to make the dialect technology of the Bradford trade thoroughly representative more volunteers are wanted to compile exhaustive lists culled from every department of the trade of the town. The collecting of technical terms, representing all sections of the textile, mining, and other staple industries of the West Riding, has still to be dealt with, and represents a great amount of work to be accomplished.

BRADFORD * PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE DIALECT DICTIONARY.

MEETING IN BRADFORD.

Bradford Observer Oct 7th 1895

A general meeting of the workers for the forthcoming English Dialect Dictionary and of others interested in the work was held on Friday last at the Royal Hotel, Bradford, under the auspices of the Yorkshire Committee of Workers, to meet Professor Joseph Wright, D.D., the editor of the dictionary. Mr. C. A. Federer presided, and there were present Professor Wright, Professor Shearer, Professor Armitage, Mr. S. P. Unwin, Mr. T. H. Healey, Mr. John Clapham, Mr. Toothill, Mr. Butler Wood, Mr. John Firth, Mr. J. Medcalf, Mr. J. L. Halliday (Baildon), Mr. M. Frankland (Ossett), Mrs. W. P. Byles, Miss Backhouse, and others.—A report was read by Mr. S. K. Craven (hon. local secretary), in which a description of the methods and results of the work yet done was given. He stated that 274 works had been read, and though there existed no complete bibliography of Yorkshire dialect literature, it was estimated that fully 350 books still remained to be read. In addition, lists of words culled from local speech had been received from Upper Craven, Denholme, Thornton, Dent-dale, Selby, Huddersfield, the Colne Valley, Ribblesdale, and Wensleydale. The committee had to regret the loss during the year of the Rev. W. Thompson, of Sedbergh, and Mr. R. Mortimer, of Fimber, East Yorkshire. It was also stated that it was in contemplation to form a sub-committee at Whitby, which would shortly be got to work.—A general discussion followed, in which Mr. S. P. Unwin expressed the opinion that there was still a good deal of ignorance among persons who would be willing to help of the existence of the committee and of regular organisation of the work, and urged that there should be some definite means of communication. With a little work the preparation of practically complete lists of dialectical technical terms would be possible.

Dr. Wright said that with regard to technical terms there was great difficulty, and at this stage it was far better for workers to err on the side of inclusion than of the exclusion of doubtfully dialectical words. When the slips were in hand the existing technical dictionaries would be consulted, and any words occurring in these books of reference in precisely the same sense would be excluded from the dialect dictionary. But words used in other connections would be included. The inclusion of literary words used with dialectical peculiarities would cause the inclusion of a large number of words. Ben Preston, for instance, who wrote the best dialect in the Bradford district, used the auxiliary verbs with a peculiar syntactical usage, not to be found in literature. The same thing was seen in the pronouns, for which there were no fewer than four distinct forms all in the nominative case, and all of which would have to go into the dictionary, inasmuch as they all differed to a greater or less degree from literary English. The new dictionary, again, would contain probably 30,000 compounds, for it was a peculiarity often observable that dialects made compound words of combinations which would in literary English be expressed by paraphrases or by the possesive case. A difficulty seemed to have been the inclusion by many workers of merely dialectical pronunciations of ordinary literary words, and no less than 7cwt. of slips containing words of this character were burned in August last. Professor Wright went on to say that in addition to the dictionary he had an elaborate scheme for the preparation of a dialectical atlas, which would give about 150 maps illustrating the distribution over England and Scotland of the old English sounds, and illustrating representative inflections. These would show in a striking way the dialectical development, and would illustrate, for instance, how far the various contributing languages had gone to the make-up of the dialect. The East Riding dialect, for instance, was almost pure Danish, and in Bradford district there was a surprisingly large element of old French. He was also arranging to obtain the use of the largest phonograph yet made, with which he proposed to record 12,000 or 15,000 specimen phrases, and one of his assistants was being trained to construct sentences which should best bring out the dialectical peculiarities. This and the atlas would obviate the necessity of writing elaborate phonological articles on each letter. The dictionary during the last few months had made enormous progress, and it was recently estimated that he had in hand a million and a-half of slips. An elaborate calculation which had taken five assistants fourteen days to make had resulted in the estimate that the new dialect dictionary would contain about 70,000 articles. A good deal of work had been done to illustrate the Yorkshire dialect apart from that done under the auspices of the committee, and one gentleman, a Mr. Wilkinson, of Lingdale, Yorkshire, had sent in no fewer than 20,000 slips, and seemed to do nothing else. He (Dr. Wright) had found it practically impossible to get Scotchmen to work for the dictionary. They did not wish to be considered English even philologically. The Scotch people had an idea that their tongue was not a dialect of English, but was a language, and although he had made many urgent appeals for Scottish workers, he had only three workers in all Scotland—two in Aberdeen and one in Stirling.

Mr. J. L. Halliday said that the Scotch, in regarding their tongue as a distinct language, and not a dialect, were following the high authority of Lord Brougham. He was aware it was a mistake.—Dr. Wright said it was a great mistake, and it was a quite modern mistake, for the older writers recognised it as an English dialect.—Professor Shearer undertook to provide some Scottish workers.—After further discussion, it was decided that groups should be formed to deal with various lists of technical words, and that the committee should meet monthly to organise the work.

B.O. Oct 7-95

ENGLISH DIALECT DICTIONARY.

By way of opening the winter session, a meeting of Yorkshire workers in connection with the English Dialect Dictionary was held on Friday night last, in the Royal Hotel, Bradford, over which Mr. C. A. Federer presided. The Hon. Secretary to the Yorkshire Committee (Mr. S. K. Craven) read a report, showing the progress made. It stated that 134 works had been read since the formation of the committee, and as a result upwards of 8,000 slips had been written out. It was estimated that at least 350 books and pamphlets containing local dialect matter remained to be gone through. The report also stated that the task of collecting technical terms had not as yet been seriously taken in hand, but there were 21 workers engaged in that direction. After the report those present talked over matters in connection with the dictionary in a general sort of way, and Dr. Wright, its editor-in-chief, who was amongst the company, participated in the conversation. The doctor said they had recently had to burn 7 cwt. of slips containing words which were of purely dialectic pronunciation, and had no connection with the dictionary. He stated he was about to bring out a dialectic atlas, showing the modern development of old English, and said he was having a special phonograph made and a man trained to construct sentences, bringing out dialect pronunciation. He was now preparing matter for the printers of the dictionary, but there were 400 books which it was urgent should be read at once. The doctor further added the interesting fact that it was calculated the dictionary would contain about 70,000 words. Arrangements were made for more united action in Yorkshire during this winter.

Leeds Mercury - Oct 7. 95

Leeds Mercury
Oct 7th 1895.

Additional Committee

J Halliday Mirfield
Jno Mallalieu J.P. Bailiff.
(an authority on hand-loom weaving)
H.E. Wroot 15 Southfield Sq.

New Workers.

Jno Kidd. Bingley Chronicle
Wm Frankland for Shoddy.
John Firth Hand & power loom weaving — will meet others with similar knowledge.
Wm Clapham 9 Piccadilly
Rev S Jenkinson. Malton.

Proposed vote of thanks.
Prop Shearer.
Seconded by J Halliday

Re proposal to Combine for
Tech. Terms by Mr Unwin

Mr Ward proposes to issue
lists of workers with nature of
work they propose to do.

Dr Wright responds.

Next Committee Mtg

Pres
Festin
Wright
McC
Franks
Ward
Child
Halliday
Mrs Byl
Mr Robb
Mr Back
Wood
Kirby
Chisam
Cowtop
Chapman
Wroot
Football
Firth

Voting thanks to Mr Wright was proposed by Prof Chisam and seconded by Mr J Halliday. In supporting resolution Mr Union expressed to cooperate with Mr Firth and others in compiling list of each town.

The following gentlemen were elected as members of the committee viz:-

Mr. Union
Mr J Mitcalf.
Mr Halliday.

Dewsbury Reporter
Nov 2nd 1895.

Dewsbury Reporter

Nov. 2nd 1895

THE ENGLISH DIALECT DICTIONARY.—A meeting of persons interested in the collection and preservation of purely Yorkshire words used in conversation among the people or (dealing with technical matters) amongst employers and employed in manufactories and workshops, was held on Monday evening, in the Board-room of the Dewsbury and District Technical School, the use of which had been granted for the occasion. There were present S. J. Chadwick, Esq. (who was voted to the chair), Alderman T. Richards, Mr. M. Frankland (Ossett), Mr. B. Kirby (Batley), Mr. Craven (Bradford), and Messrs. H. Hey, J. Myers, and P. F. Lee, the latter acting as local secretary.—Mr. Craven reported what had been decided to be done in the way of collecting dialect from this district, naming the woollen manufacture, the dyeing, the engineering, the building, and other industries likely to be able to furnish dialect, technical terms, &c. Several gentlemen had undertaken to co-operate in the work. The blanket trade, it was mentioned, was at present without a representative. Workpeople in that and other branches of manufacture—for instance, in the iron, as well as in the textile trades—it was said might furnish valuable information, and those willing to do so were invited to communicate with Mr. P. F. Lee, at the Technical School, personally or by letter. Copies of dialect publications would be gladly received, and it was stated that the following were much wanted:—"T' Bag o' Shoddy Olmenac," Batley, 1866; "The Bome Miln Olmenac and T' West Riding Annual, Cleckheaton, 1855 to 1858," and "The Swashland Olmenac," Heckmondwike, 1870.

DEWSBURY FRIENDS' ADULT SCHOOL. — On

Huddersfield Examiner

Dec 4th 1895.

ENGLISH DIALECT DICTIONARY.
LOCAL TRADE TERMS.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—The Editor (Professor Joseph Wright, M.A.) is desirous to include in this work all technical words of a local character. The textile trades of Bradford, Dewsbury, and other centres of the West Riding are now being actively "worked" by the Yorkshire committee, which has its centre at Bradford, as are also the iron industries of South Yorkshire. As yet no one has been found willing to engage in the collecting of local terms employed in the various trades of Huddersfield and district. It would be little less than a misfortune if this great work were to go to Press without your town being adequately represented. Dr. Wright would be thankful, therefore, if any person who is willing to compile lists of local trade terms, dialect or otherwise, would kindly communicate with the local secretary, who would gladly furnish any further information.—I am, yours,

S. K. CROWEN, Local Secretary.

41, Carlisle Street, Bradford.

"Bradford."
January 4th 1896.

A report which has just been issued by the Yorkshire Committee of Writers for the English Dialect Dictionary, shows that useful work is being done. It is surprising that even now-a-days difficulty is experienced by the committee in getting the assistance of some educated persons in dialect enquiries, because, it is imagined, since dialect is not usually used by the educated, it must necessarily be vulgar and unworthy of notice. As Professor Federer pointed out at one of the meetings held in support of the committee's work, the dialects have a national and social importance of their own. They represent to us the old national habits, domestic scenes, religious beliefs, superstitions, and in fact nearly the whole local life as it existed in the early part of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, when the modern English tongue was being formed. "In a state of society when communities were divided from each other by almost insuperable obstacles, such as hills, rivers, moors, and mosses (as obtained in the North of England), each community was not only self-existent, but self-supporting and self-sufficient. The local pecularities and characteristics which resulted required local words by which they could be expressed, and which words had no existence elsewhere. Further, when the natural features of a country divided the people into different communities, those dialects must have survived a much longer time than in other parts. In the hills and dales of North Yorkshire there are, even at the present day, many secluded communities who, for a great part of the year, are entirely divided from each other. Th re the old dialects remain, and hand down to us a piece of history which is as true as, and perhaps more true than, any other history could be." The work, however, to be done in the preparation of a dictionary which shall make the study of this dialectical history more possible than it could otherwise be, is a stupendous one, but in that work Bradford is taking part with an earnestness and vigour not exceeded by that of any other town in the country. This is as it should be, for Dr. Wright, the distinguished philologist who is to edit the dictionary, is, it will be remembered, a native of Windhill.

W Y Pioneer

Jan 24th 1896.

To revert to a letter which appears in our "Forum" to-day: we have great pleasure in enforcing the claims of the Craven committee and secretaries of the English Dialect Dictionary movement to the ready co-operation of such of our readers, and of Craven folk generally, as are able to help forward the great project. The necessity of preserving in permanent record the dialects still in vogue becomes yearly more pressing, and those who can assist in achieving an end so desirable will render no mean service to philology and to literature. We hope the letter referred to will escape no single Craven reader's attention.

THE ENGLISH DIALECT DICTIONARY: CRAVEN WORKERS.

MR. EDITOR,—You will be aware that under the editorship of Prof. Joseph Wright, M.A., professor of comparative philology in the University of Oxford, a dictionary of the various dialects still in use throughout the country is being compiled. For the purpose of collecting material regarding the Craven district, for incorporation in this great national work, a committee of honorary workers has been formed in Skipton consisting of Rev. C. W. Hamilton (Broughton), Rev. A. P. Howes (Bolton Abbey), Rev. W. A. Shuffrey (Arncliffe), Lieut.-Col. Maude, Messrs. A. Birtwhistle, M. Ackernley, W. H. Dawson, T. Edmondson, J. J. Wilkinson, J. Hogg, and A. Hartley, with the undersigned as secretaries. A meeting of this committee, which is only provisional and will yet, we hope, receive important additions, was held at Skipton on Wednesday, when it was decided to issue an invitation to ladies and gentlemen in all parts of Craven to collect and forward to the secretaries lists of dialect words in use in their own localities. May we be allowed to make this invitation known through your columns and to add that communications on the subject will be gladly received by either of us?—JOHN SCOTT, junr., Skipton; W. C. SLINGSBY, Carleton.

THE ENGLISH DIALECT DICTIONARY.

To the Editor of The Yorkshire Post.

SIR,—As many of your readers are doubtless aware, the publication of this great and important work is shortly to be begun with Professor Joseph Wright, of Oxford, as editor-in-chief. "The dictionary will include, so far as is possible, the complete vocabulary of all dialect words which are still in use or are known to have been in use at any time during the last two hundred years." It is hoped that the first part of the work will be out in June of this year, and the whole work completed in about eight years. But more workers are urgently needed in all parts of the country.

A sub-committee has been formed for the Middlesbrough district, consisting at present of but a few persons, and for which I have been requested to act as hon. secretary, but with power to add to our number. It appears to be desirable that the membership of this sub-committee should be largely increased, and I desire to ask, through your columns, all those interested in this work who are resident in or near the Middlesbrough district to be good enough to forward to me their names as members. The "Middlesbrough District" includes that part of Yorkshire extending from Redcar to Barnard Castle and Northallerton.

The objects to be aimed at by the sub-committee are the following:—1. The independent collecting of words heard in the spoken dialects of the county. 2. The reading of Yorkshire dialect literature, and the excerpting therefrom of dialect words, phrases, and idioms, according to the instructions laid down by the Editor. 3. Collecting of words and terms peculiar to local industries, including those relating to operations formerly carried on by hand, but now superseded by machinery.

At present we are particularly anxious to collect the technical terms in use among the miners and ironworkers of Cleveland. Professor Wright writes to me under date of yesterday: "I do hope you will be able to interest a few people in collecting technical words. We are greatly in need of such words, and it is exceedingly difficult to get them from books." It will be well if any who possess rare dialect books or pamphlets will kindly report them.—I am, truly yours,

JOHN HAWELL, M.A.

Ingleby Greenhow Vicarage, Middlesbrough,
January 23, 1896.

Yorkshire Post

Tues. January 28th 1896

A preliminary meeting of gentlemen interested in the dialect dictionary of Dr. Wright was held in Keighley last night, with a view to the formation of a local committee for this part of the Craven district. It was resolved to organise such a committee as early as possible, and in the meantime it is hoped that persons able and willing to contribute information with regard to local peculiarities of diction, surviving or obsolete, will communicate with Mr. Joseph Rhodes, 54, Drewry Terrace, Keighley, who will furnish them with any desired information. We may add that it is especially wished to secure as many technical dialect words connected with local industries as possible, not omitting those used in handweaving and handcombing, and now, of course, fast passing out of memory. Words connected with farming, joinery, building, handrail making, clogging, shoemaking, woolcombing, basketmaking, angling, and other outside sports and games, with their meanings, will be gladly received.

Keighley News.

Sat. February 1st 1896.

THE ENGLISH DIALECT DICTIONARY.—A meeting f Yorkshire workers for the English Dialect Dictionary was held yesterday, at the Royal Hotel, Darley Street, Bradford. Mr. C. E. Federer presided, and there were representatives present from Skipton, Ossett, and Keighley, besides a number of the Bradford workers. It was reported by the Hon. Secretary (Mr. S. K. Craven) that in addition to the two local committees which had been formed previous to the last meeting, local committees had been formed at Keighley and Skipton, and one was in process of formation for Middlesbrough. The whole county had been divided into sixteen districts, and correspondence was proceeding with the view to secure a committee in every one of these districts. Efforts had been made to secure assistance from Leeds and Sheffield, but at present without success. An appeal was made to workers to send in any dialect words beginning with the letter A at once, as the printing of the first part of the dictionary, including most of the words having that initial, had already commenced.

Bradford Observer
Feb 8th 1896.

A WORD FOR OUR DIALECT.

DR. WRIGHT IN BRADFORD.

Yesterday afternoon Dr. Joseph Wright, of Oxford, delivered a lecture on the "English Dialect Dictionary" to the members of the Bradford Sunday Society. The address was given in the Temperance Hall, Leeds Road, and there was a moderate audience. Mr. W. Cudworth presided, in the absence of the president, Mr. W. P. Byles, who was addressing a meeting at Keighley.—In the course of his lecture, which was listened to with much interest, Dr. Wright gave a brief history of the movement which had led up to the compilation of the new dictionary of English dialects, and mentioned that about 30,000 slips, each bearing a dialect word, with an illustrative sentence, had been supplied from the Bradford district. Combating the idea that such a publication was useless, he said that when completed the dictionary could be turned to considerable use, both for historical and ethnographical purposes. For instance, it was a well-ascertained historical fact that the earlier settlers in Ireland from England came mainly from the West of England. This fact had received corroboration from the discovery, made in the preparation of the dictionary, that many dialect words which existed in Dorsetshire, Somersetshire, Devonshire, and Cornwall existed in Ireland with the same pronunciation, and they existed nowhere else. Another very striking example was in connection with the verb "to dive." In some parts of England the preterite form of the verb was dōve. In America the only preterite of the verb was "dōve," and it occurred thus in American literature. This was clearly to be attributed to the fact that the early settlers came in a very large proportion from Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk. It was known from early chroniclers that there was a considerable settlement of Flemish in South Pembrokeshire, but Geoffrey of Monmouth said that by his time the Flemish language had entirely died out in that district, and the Flemish and the native population had amalgamated. To-day there yet existed in use two Flemish words in South Pembrokeshire. They were "amm" and "akkebe." The word "amm," both in Flemish and in the South Pembroke dialect, meant "to take the chill off beer;"

Bradford Observer
Feb 24th 1896.

whilst "akkebe" was a cry of disgust. These were instances of the corroboration of known historical facts by dialectic studies. When the dictionary was finished, in fourteen or fifteen years hence, those who came after him—for by that time he would have had quite enough of the subject—would be able to work out precisely the districts in which the Danes settled in England. The Danish element was not strong in the West Riding, but in the East Riding, in Westmoreland and Cumberland, and some parts of Lancashire, as well as Norfolk and Suffolk, the spoken language contained many Danish words. This illustrated one interesting use of the dialect dictionary. By its use, too, it would be exceedingly easy to tell in what part of the country many of the existing manuscripts written in English of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries had been produced, and most important philological questions would be solved thereby. Proceeding to point out some of the ancient words which survive in dialect, Dr. Wright referred to the word "tallart," which in Cheshire, the West Midland, and South-Western counties meant a hayloft. This had a pedigree in England of eighteen or nineteen hundred years, for it had survived ever since the Roman occupation, its origin being the Roman "tabularium," a place with a paved floor, yet it did not occur once in the whole of English literature. Again "sackless," which was now not a very respectable word, had a highly respectable pedigree. The word was formerly restricted to legal phraseology, and meant "not guilty." Thus it came to mean simple, inoffensive, bashful. Now to say that a person was inoffensive implied that he was mentally deficient, and thus it came to mean silly. The word silly itself originally meant "blessed," and a word akin to it was used in German still with that meaning. But in England the word came to equal "inoffensive," and gradually took a derogatory meaning. A very strange history attached to the word "mich," which, though not occurring in the Bradford dialect to his (the lecturer's) knowledge, was well known in some dialects as meaning "to walk." From it was derived the dialect words smooch, mouch, and several other forms. Gradually this word came to mean "to loiter." Then in some dialects it was restricted to loitering in playing truant from school, and then it came to be applied to the picking of blackberries, so that in the Forest of Dean blackberries were known as mouchberries. This word did not appear in the whole of literature until the time of Shakspeare, who associated the word with the picking of blackberries. The word "abear," as used in the phrase "I can't abear him," was known in every dialect of English, yet did not appear in literature after 1230. Thus it was that hundreds of words lived in dialect for hundreds of years after ceasing to be literary expressions. The prevailing idea of dialect was that it was corrupt speech. Nothing could be further from the truth. In most cases the dialectic form was the older, and the literary language was itself corrupted. Pointing out the greater delicacy of dialect over literary English, Dr. Wright said that the ordinary literary language made no distinction in pronunciation between meat and meet, but in dialect the former was pronounced meit and the latter met, the difference pointing to the fact that the words had an entirely different origin. So, again, a dialectic difference, pointing to difference of derivation, was made between "roads" when used as equivalent to streets and "reads," an anchoring place for ships. Again "right" in Bradford dialect was pronounced "rate," a cartwright was a "reet;" whilst to write was pronounced with the long "i," as in literary English, though all three words were pronounced alike in the literary language. Proceeding to speak of the grammar of the Bradford dialect, Dr. Wright expressed the opinion that a person would find greater difficulty in learning a dialect which was not his mother speech than he would in getting a practical knowledge of French or German, so subtle was the dialectic grammar. Yet this grammar was habitually used with such accuracy by those who spoke the dialect that to misuse a form indicated the contamination of the board school. Each of the pronouns, for instance, had four separate forms, according to their place in the principal sentence or subordinate sentence, and these forms were never misused by those who habitually used dialect. A form of great antiquity was the compounding of words to form the possessive, as in the word "faderbuits," meaning "father's boots." The "s" indicative of the possessive case had not been dropped in dialect. It had never been there, but had been introduced as a corruption in the literary language. The new dialect dictionary would contain about 70,000 words, of which 40,000 would be simple words, and the rest compounds. In conclusion, Dr. Wright observed that Archbishop Trench, in a book he had written on language, had made a great mistake in assuming that a farm labourer had but a very limited vocabulary. On the contrary, he had usually a very large one. He knew the name of every separate part of every implement used on a farm, with, usually, a large number of plant names most of which would be unknown to persons of a merely literary education; and he had also his stock of everyday words in addition to this technical knowledge. It was thus quite wrong to assume that his language was a limited one; and in his dialectic grammar he was often more exact and regular than the best educated person in the literary language, whilst his language enabled him to make distinctions which the literary language was not capable of expressing save by long paraphrases.—At the conclusion of the lecture Mr. Oliver Firth, in a very amusing speech, couched in "t'owd talk,'" moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer. The motion was secouded by Mr. S. K. Craven, the secretary of the Yorkshire Committee of the English Dialect Society, who made an appeal for the assistance of factory-workers and others having a knowledge of the technical words used in factories and other branches of labour. The resolution was agreed to, and the meeting closed.

Byd Observer
Feb 25th 1896

It may not be known to all our readers that Dr. Wright, who gave so interesting an account of his great dialect work to the Temperance Hall audience on Sunday afternoon, is a local man, and a man of whom the locality may be proud. He is a Windhill lad, born of humble parents, and after his days of schooling, worked for some time in Wildman's mill at Bingley. That he should have afterwards found his way to a German University, should there have become a great scholar of languages and dialectics, and returning to England should have been appointed by the University of Oxford to the chair of Comparative Philology, vacated by Professor Sayce, argues a strong character, great industry, and unusual natural parts. The Windhill lad revisited his old haunts on Sunday evening. He "thees and thahs" his old mates as they chat over pipe and glass, just as in former days, absolutely unspoilt by all his greatness, though he must be counted one of the most distinguished philological scholars in Europe.

The dialect speech in which Mr. Oliver Firth, of Baildon, proposed a vote of thanks to the Doctor was a very difficult, but very perfect, performance. It was freely and easily delivered, was free from linguistic faults, never lapsed a single moment into "literary" English, and withal was full of wit and point. If any amateur in the Yorkshire dialect thinks that an easy achievement, let him try the experiment before his looking-glass, or in his own family circle, and he will be undeceived. Dr. Wright himself was delighted, and the audience roared. Mr. Firth alone was impassive and unperturbed.

Bradford Observer
Jan 12th 1897.

The Yorkshire Committee of the English Dialect Society is considering the desirability of winding up its operations and disbanding, its labours being now practically completed. Work in furtherance of its object, which was to collect Yorkshire material for the English Dialect Dictionary, has been going on in a desultory manner for a good many years, but the committee was only formed for systematic treatment of the subject a little more than two years ago. The basis of the dialectic language of Yorkshire was, of course, well known, for no fewer than ten glossaries of different parts of the county had been published. The efforts of the committee were limited mainly to collecting technical words, and, in regard to ordinary dialect, the collection from spoken language, or books in dialect, of specimen sentences, and information with regard to the geographical area in which the words are in use. For some words in the glossaries confirmation was also required. One glossary in particular is notable for the number of bogus words which it contains, the author, who was a village schoolmaster with more philological enthusiasm than knowledge of human nature, having received much assistance in compiling the list from the members of his classes, to whom a money prize for each fresh word discovered was offered. Since the committee's formation about 36,000 slips bearing dialect words have been sent to Dr. Wright, together with about 5000 dialect words used in technical senses in different trades. The Yorkshire material for the dictionary, thanks mainly to the efforts of Mr. Craven, the hon. secretary of the committee, is thus exceeding complete, and little or nothing remains to be done.

Bradford Observer
Feb 20th 1897.

The Yorkshire committee of workers for Dr. Wright's dialect dictionary was dissolved last night, as having completed its labours. At the same time it was pointed out that the field in which it has been working is by no means exhausted, and that further information would probably still be accepted by Dr. Wright from those who cared to furnish it, for embodiment in a supplement. In view of the interest in dialect which the work of the committee has aroused in Yorkshire it was decided to form a dialect society for the county, which shall form a medium not only for the interchange of the results of private investigation, but for discussion as well. The latter object is one which did not come within the sphere of the defunct committee, and as an instance of the interesting field which it would open Mr. Federer mentioned the fact that during study which he had been devoting to the Danish language he had been greatly surprised at the large number of words from that source to be found in the dialect of this part of the country.

BRADFORD
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THE ENGLISH DIALECT DICTIONARY.—At the County Restaurant, Bradford, on Friday, a final meeting was held of Yorkshire workers who have been engaged in supplying material for the English Dialect Dictionary of Dr. Wright.—Mr. C. A. Federer, chairman of the Yorkshire Committee, presided. He said that the dictionary had begun to make its appearance, and the work of the committee had now practically reached its conclusion, although there could, of course, be no finality in the collection of dialect material.—The Hon. Secretary (Mr. S. K. Craven) read the second annual report, in which it was stated that the work of going through the dialect literature of the county for words and illustrative quotation had been steadily carried on during the year. One hundred and eighty-four books and pamphlets had been read, as compared with 134 in the previous year, but there were no doubt works on and in dialect which would yet repay perusal. The lists compiled by private individuals during the year showed a considerable increase, and were more representative of the diversity of dialects spoken in the different parts of the county than the earlier lists. There were yet many Yorkshire industries unrepresented, and this department of the work of the committee had been the least productive, owing principally to the difficulty of obtaining the desired information. Since October, 1895, the total number of persons who had contributed dialect material through the Yorkshire Committee was seventy-five. The number of slips which had passed through the hands of the secretary was 21,688, and as the average weight of 1000 slips was about 4lb., the total weight of dialect matter forwarded by the committee during the year would be about 85lb., or three-quarters of a cwt.—Mr. S. P. Unwin, in moving the adoption of the report, said that it was of a very satisfactory character. Mr. J. Turner seconded the motion, which was agreed to, and the Chairman expressed his appreciation of the hard work and intelligence devoted by the secretary to the service of the dictionary, an acknowledgment which the meeting cordially endorsed. It was subsequently decided to form a permanent Yorkshire Dialect Society for the periodical interchange of results and discussion.

Bradford Observer.
Feb 22nd 1897

YORKSHIRE AND THE ENGLISH DIALECT DICTIONARY.—At a meeting held at the County Restaurant, Bradford, on Friday, the Yorkshire Committee of Workers for Dr. Wright's Dialect Dictionary was formally dissolved, having practically come to the end of its labours. Since its formation in October, 1894, some 320 books and pamphlets containing Yorkshire dialect have been read and over 32,000 words and illustrative quotations collected, each on a separate half-sheet of notepaper, the whole weighing considerably over 1 cwt. The field of research, however, is by no means exhausted, and in view of the interest in dialect and in matters connected therewith which has been aroused by the Committee's work, it was decided to form a dialect society for the county. A sub-committee was appointed to take preliminary steps for the furtherance of that object.

Yorkshire Post.
Feb 22nd 1897.

THE ENGLISH DIALECT DICTIONARY.

Although it is still possible to find spots within English bounds where the common talk of the rural populace sounds almost as strangely in the traveller's ear as the tongue of Connemara or the outer Hebrides, the time is rapidly drawing near when the old-world ways of speech will be no more than a memory. All such dialects are already doomed. It is hardly likely that any one of them will survive thirty years longer, in the face of State-aided education. Their disappearance will be matter for regret. The moors of Devon will lose something of their charm when the soft burr of the hill-folk is forgotten. The wayfarer in the pleasant lanes of Somerset, who, it may be, has altogether failed to comprehend directions given him by some weather-beaten son of the soil, telling him, perhaps, to "git awver thic geeut, and volly eftur tha gurt gripe droo tha vower yakker veeuld," may have wished that he could have the short cut to the church described in some more intelligible tongue. But yet he would probably own—next morning, at any rate—that the dialect does add to the interest of a country walk, besides possessing a distinct historic value. He might even go the length of saying that he was sorry to think such ways of speech were dying out. The assistance of all who are interested in the preservation of such relics of these old dialects as still remain is at the present time most earnestly called for. Twenty years ago there was formed an association called the English Dialect Society, with the object of collecting materials for the compilation of "a large and comprehensive Dictionary of English Dialects." Some idea of the work already accomplished may be gathered from the fact that the society has already published no fewer than seventy volumes. All these are to be incorporated in the new dictionary.

The editor-in-chief, Professor Joseph Wright, M.A., Ph.D., who has already accummulated "over a million slips—about a ton weight"—containing illustrative quotations from various dialects, feels, with Professor Skeat and other specialists, "that the time has come when it is urgently necessary to begin to edit for the press the vast amount of material already collected, because in a work of this nature delay is dangerous, and every year will render it more and more difficult to obtain accurate information about the pronunciation of dialect words; so rapidly is dialect speech disappearing from our midst, that in a few years it will be almost impossible to get accurate information upon difficult points. Hence it has been decided to begin the publication of the Dictionary next year if possible." But, as Professor Wright points out, although so much has been already accomplished, much still remains to be done. And he makes an earnest appeal to his "fellow-countrymen to enable us to make the material as possible before we begin to prerk for the press. . . . It will be rt of a reproach and a disgrace to glishmen if we let a true and part of our national speech in our time without an preserve and hand it down Such an effort we are making." reminds those who are willing to ro objects have to be kept in view— e every known dialect word—dialect in a wide sense to include colloulgarisms, and slang . . regisseparate half-sheet of notepaper." o get together a complete collection ve quotations which will show the ialect words," especially of sentences which have been "actually heard from of the people introducing these

he old ballads which are still current places would no doubt be found to d illustrative quotations of the kind But it must be borne in mind that a onunciation will often be found isguise a word really familiar, and use throughout the country—as , in the west country conjugations, e, spoäsin thee be'st, spoäsin a wer, m, spoäsin you'm, spoäsin tha be; ll more elaborate I med mebbe thee medst mebbe ha' been, are not examples for Professor All words which merely differ from language in pronunciation, but not will be rigidly excluded." But it with, for example, the Somerset- e "min"; as "a tould I to dig min"—meaning these particular root crop perhaps. Or with the used in the same country apparently n idea of intensification, as "it do meaning "it rains very hard." re indeed, is one of the counties in help is especially wanted, and ht that such help can hardly thcoming when the aim of this more widely known. "The Dicinclude, so far as is possible, the cabulary of all dialect words which se, or are known to have been in ime during the last two hundred This unique work . . will be and most comprehensive Dialect ever published in any country. vill be a storehouse of information ral reader, and an invaluable work nt and all future generations of ur mother tongue."

ily News (London)

'71.

THE GREAT DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH DIALECTS.

After a considerable preliminary preparation extending over more than twenty years, arrangements are at length in progress for the actual starting of the compilation of the projected Dictionary of the English Dialects. When we state that it will be on a scale resembling that of the great monumental Dictionary of the English language, which is making such a sure, steady, and splendid advance under the editorship of Dr. J. A. H. Murray, and that in many respects it will be a more difficult undertaking, some idea may be formed of the task which lies before Dr. Joseph Wright, M.A., the deputy professor of Comparative Philology in the University of Oxford, who has voluntarily assumed the responsibility of superintending the completion of this onerous project. For twenty-one years the English Dialect Society has been engaged in the publication of glossaries of the dialects of well-nigh every district in England, Southern Scotland, and English-speaking Ireland (Antrim and Down). The society has issued some seventy volumes at a cost to its members of about £4,500. These materials, along with others in manuscript, were handed over to Mr. Smythe Palmer in 1887, and he occupied four years in the work of collation and methodical arrangement, a subscription of between £500 and £600 being raised and devoted in the meantime to the necessary outlay. The Rev. W. W. Skeat, Professor of Anglo-Saxon at Cambridge, and the well-known authority on Early English, Chaucer, and Piers Plowman, acted as treasurer, an office he has again kindly assumed in connection with the now more matured and more completely organized project.

It is intended that the Dictionary shall include the complete vocabulary of all dialect words which are still in use or are known to have been in use at any time during the last 300 years. All words occurring in the literary language, and the dialects, with some local peculiarity of meaning in the latter, will also be included. The work will also contain (1) the exact geographical area over which each dialect word extends, together with quotations and references to the sources from which the word has been obtained; (2) the exact pronunciation in each case according to a simple phonetic scheme, specially formulated for the purpose; (3) the etymology so far as relates to the immediate source of each word. This unique work can never become antiquated, and, when completed, will be the largest and most comprehensive Dialect Dictionary ever published in any country, as well as being the only one based upon strictly scientific principles.

Dr. Wright has already in his possession considerably over a million slips—about a ton in weight—each containing the source, with quotation, date, and county. The slips for the letter S alone weigh nearly two hundred-weight. Nevertheless more help is needed. This is required in the shape of workers who will undertake to read one or more dialect books which have not yet been dealt with, and set the words down, along with illustrative passages, on slips specially prepared for the purpose. In order to accomplish this on a thorough and comprehensive scale, committees have been formed in several districts. One committee is in course of formation in Manchester, which will organize workers for Lancashire and Cheshire. The honorary secretary (who will readily give every information

A DICTIONARY OF DIALECTS.*

To the two great English dictionaries already in the course of publication, the "Dictionary of National Biography" and the "New English Dictionary," has now been added a third in the shape of the "English Dialect Dictionary," which bids fair to be no unworthy rival of its two elder contemporaries in scholarship, exhaustiveness, and bulk. The first part, which lies before us, consists of one hundred and forty-four closely-printed double-column pages, and contains an account of two thousand one hundred and sixty-six words; yet it only extends from A to Ballot, and if the present scale is maintained, before the letter Z is finished the work will comprise about thirty parts, four thousand three hundred pages, and will have dealt with some sixty-five thousand words. Such a work obviously entails an enormous amount of labour, which does credit to a *fin-de-siècle* generation. According to the Editor, Dr. Wright, of whose career we gave some details in a recent issue (July 11), "it has taken a large number of people, in all parts of the United Kingdom, twenty-three years to collect the material for the Dictionary. In almost every county competent people have been secured to assist in answering queries and in supplying any words that may have been omitted in their respective districts." The number of voluntary readers exceeds three hundred and fifty, besides the regular staff employed under Dr. Wright in his "workshop." The bibliography itself will occupy thirty closely-printed pages, but more important than the consultation of published works has been the constant resort to local and personal knowledge of dialects, which is really the most trustworthy and final authority. The idea of an English Dialect Dictionary originated in 1873, and with that view the English Dialect Society was formed; the seventy-seven volumes which represent its labours are incorporated in the present work, and constitute the most important part of its materials. The Dictionary will include the complete vocabulary of all English dialect words which are still in use or are known to have been in use at any time during the last two hundred years in England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. It will also include American and Colonial dialect words which are still in use in Great Britain and Ireland, or which are to be found in early printed dialect books and glossaries. So that the most exacting of philologists will have no cause to complain of the scope of the work. Not that philologists will be the only class to benefit by this work. It will be of immense use to the novelist in search of local colour, whose local dialect is generally double Dutch to those whose daily speech it claims to represent. And the care taken to collect and illustrate phrases, local botanical terms, and general slang—which we suppose is only another term for dialect—will make it welcome to the general reader. We have little to offer in the way of criticism; occasionally it seems that Dr. Wright has been more successful in securing competent assistance in some districts than in others, and the enumeration of localities in which certain words are current is not by any means exhaustive. We do not notice the name of any voluntary reader for the Isle of Wight, which possesses a dialect quite distinct from that of Hampshire; and the chief printed authority, Mr. W. H. Long's book on the Isle of Wight dialect, is the work of a secondhand bookseller who lived at Portsmouth, and whose knowledge of the Isle of Wight dialect was mostly limited to what he could pick up on Sunday excursions. But these are comparative trifles, and we are glad to see that the list of subscribers, numbering over a thousand, gives promise of a worthy reception for this work and guarantees sufficient support, we may hope, to ensure a more regular and rapid publication of the remaining parts than has been possible for the "New English Dictionary," to which this will form an invaluable complement.

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* "The English Dialect Dictionary." Edited by Joseph Wright, M.A., Ph.D., Deputy Professor of Comparative Philology in the University of Oxford. Part I: A to Ballot. (London: Henry Frowde. 1896.)

DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEA
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEA
You can tell it by its Softness on the Palate.

BRADFORD PUBLIC

Westminster Gazette
July 16. 96

THE ENGLISH DIALECT DICTIONARY.

OVER A TON OF MATERIAL.

A *Pall Mall* representative called the other day on Dr. Joseph Wright, Deputy Professor of Comparative Philology at Oxford, who has undertaken the work of editing an English Dialect Dictionary, which, when completed, should be as notable an achievement in its way as Dr. Murray's New English Dictionary. Every one who has even the smallest knowledge of dialect knows also that dialect is fast dying out, and that—if only as a storehouse of what has been called "fossil poetry"—it is worth preserving. These facts led to the formation in 1873 of the English Dialect Society, of which Professor Wright is the secretary; and since that date the society has published no less than seventy volumes, chiefly glossaries of the words used in various districts. But the work of making the dictionary, for which Professors Wright and Skeat are responsible, will still be enormous. The work is to include, when finished, the complete vocabulary of all dialect words which are still in use, or are known to have been in use during the past two hundred years. Professor Wright was good enough to exhibit the material already collected, which consists of somewhere over a ton of half-sheets of note-paper; a million slips of the following type:—

Whinnick [*win'ik, sometimes whin'ik*]

to whimper *Norf.*

She put her ap'on to her eyes and begun to whinnick.

Johnny and Jenny, ch. 1, *p.* 8.

Some idea of the meaning of this may be got from the fact that the mere arrangement of the slips in alphabetical order cost no less than £600. For the letter S alone there are two hundredweight of slips already laid by. And this material is but a beginning. Professor Wright appeals to all who are interested to help according to their ability. The Dialect Society has issued some seventy glossaries. All these have to be gone through and cut up, the words being then slipped as in the above example. It is interesting to learn that the editor recently received an offer from a family of eight, stating that, though completely ignorant of dialects, they would one and all be glad to devote an hour a day to the cutting up of glossaries. There is need of others to read novels, agricultural treatises, sporting books, and so on with the same devotion, and to make slips for the dialect words occurring therein. The *Pall Mall* representative found the editor in the act of examining a pile of over 300 slips, which had been the result of such a reading of three books on farriery. There is practically no end to the material, and the need of workers is endless. Professor Wright stated that Mr. Dartnell, of Salisbury, whose glossary of Wiltshire words was lately published by the Dialect Society, is reading Cotgrave, and calculates that it will yield somewhere like 10,000 slips. This work of reading books for the Dictionary is

BEST DONE BY MEANS OF COMMITTEES.

By a simple system of slips, Professor Wright is able to discover in a few minutes what books relating to any district have or have not already been read. Then, in the event of his finding two or three helpers residing near to one another, he writes and suggests that they should form themselves into a committee and work together. The committee, being formed, appoints a secretary, and by this means alone Professor Wright is eased by having to correspond with one helper instead of with many. And the secretary sees that the books read and slipped are not by any chance done in duplicate. The slips are sent on to Oxford from time to time, but, beyond receiving them, the editor has complete freedom from trouble as to the districts in which they occur. Professor Wright states, as, indeed, one would naturally expect, that his helpers are most numerous and most enthusiastic in the North of England and in the West. Cornishmen, Yorkshiremen, Lancashiremen, and the men of Northumberland are eager to help in the work of preserving the folk-speech of their respective birthplaces; but in Kent and Surrey—to take examples—there is no such anxiety on the part of natives. At any rate, enthusiasts are rarer. It would be a great help to the makers of the Dictionary if they could secure the co-operation of local committees for the Midland and Southern counties. But there is other work to be done besides this of cutting up glossaries or reading books. There is a great deal of dialect which has never yet got itself printed, and it is this which Professor Wright is particularly anxious to get hold of, inasmuch as

IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE EXTINCT

in the course of a generation or two, when they are dead in whose memories alone it survives. The slip printed above is an example of how those who possess knowledge of this kind can best place it at the editor's disposal. In the left-hand corner of a half-sheet of note-paper, of the ordinary size, the word is written plainly; in the opposite corner the county in which it occurs, and underneath the meaning with, if possible, an example of its use, taken either from printed sources or the memory of the recorder. To write plainly, it may be added, most men need to print their words. A specimen page of the Dictionary, printed some years ago, shows the immense amount of labour which will remain to be done by Professor Wright and his staff of assistants when the necessary material in the shape of slips has been collected. In the first place, the article on each word will begin with a sort of geographical summary, from which may be learned the exact region in which it occurs, and, if necessary, those regions in which, contrary to what might be expected, it is not to be found. Then will follow an account of the divers shades of meaning with which the word is used in various localities, and of its varying forms. Examples will be quoted, and in all cases the

AUTHORITY FOR A MEANING WILL BE GIVEN.

This is necessary, for, according to Professor Wright, there have been enthusiastic collectors of words who have been willing to pay so handsomely for additions to their glossaries that they have fallen victims to swindlers, and printed in their collections words for which there is no other authority whatever. There was once, for instance, a schoolmaster who gave his pupils sixpence for every new dialect word they brought him. His collection is one of the utmost value; but there are certain words included in it which manifestly owe their existence to the inventiveness of the collector's pupils, stimulated by the desire of sixpences. This work of arranging the material, collecting the slips, and seeing the work through the press will probably take at least twelve years. Indeed, it is hardly too much to say, if one may take the

year of the Dialect Society's birth as the year in which the work upon the dictionary was actually started, that the volumes will represent close upon forty years of labour when at last they are in the hands of the public. They will be smaller in actual bulk than the New English Dictionary, but there are ways in which they may be taken to represent an even bigger achievement. For the material of the New English Dictionary is of necessity taken in great part from the more or less notable productions of more or less recognized English writers; the makers of the Dialect Dictionary have been driven by the very nature of their task

To Go Forth into the Remotest Byways

of literature, and frequently to find their chiefest treasures in books which would be wholly valueless and void of interest if they were not done in dialect. Early in the New Year Dr. Wright will issue to the public a final specimen page of the Dictionary, and along with it an appeal for subscribers. These will pay a pound a year, and in return will receive, on July 1 and January 1, two parts per annum, the parts being issued at 15s. net to non-subscribers. Professor Wright promises that if a thousand names are obtained in response to this appeal he will immediately set about the work of producing the Dictionary, and thereafter send out the parts on the appointed days as regularly as if they were but newspapers, magazines, or income-tax papers. But he still desires help; for it is evident, from what has been said of the vast amount of material which has yet to be treated and rendered available, that when the Dictionary has been

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nominally completed there will be need of a large supplement, including such words as come to hand too late to be included in their proper places. And for the sake of those who may be able to render assistance it may be well to give the editors explanation of why it is necessary to cut up glossaries and slip them. For this is work which can be done

Even by Those who are Ignorant of all Dialects,

and yet its value as assistance to the makers of the dictionary can hardly be over-estimated. The reason, then, is simply that the editor, when he has taken in hand some one word, cannot be expected to turn to a hundred different glossaries and end-lists, and, keeping in view all these various pieces of information, digest them into a single homogeneous article. With regard to any word, he has to inform himself of its local *habitat*, its various forms and pronunciations, and its different shades of meaning. If this is to be accomplished without an amount of labour which would postpone the completion of the dictionary to the end of time, the whole amount of available information must be placed before him in one synoptic view. Which is to say, again, the entries from all quarters as to each individual word must be recorded on separate half-sheets of note paper—and to help in the work of the dictionary is to have your reward, if you be economical, in finding a use at last for such half-sheets—which will eventually be brought together into one connected sequence. It only remains to add that Professor Wright will be happy to supply information to those who are willing to help in any way whatever, and that his address is 6, Norham-road, Oxford.

PALL MALL GAZETTE.

The English Dialect Dictionary.

YORKSHIRE COMMITTEE OF WORKERS.

During the course of our labours several matters of importance have presented themselves to which it is desirable to call the attention of workers.

Progress of the Work. While fully conscious of the valuable services rendered by helpers, the Committee beg to point out the need for greater expedition in the collecting and forwarding of material. This appeal is made in view of the fact that the present winter, the period most suitable for work of this character, is rapidly wearing away. Upwards of 150 works have been distributed among readers since October last, but the total number of slips received from all sources during the five months ending February 29th, does not exceed 5000. It may be inferred therefore that a considerable number of these books have yet to be read. The Committee hope that the bulk of the Yorkshire dialect literature may yet be got through during the forthcoming Spring if helpers will kindly co-operate by devoting to the work an hour or two in each week.

As the printing of the Dictionary has actually commenced, all words, especially those commencing with the Letter A, should be sent in without delay if they are to be of any immediate service to the Editor.

The more immediate requirements at the present juncture are:—

GOOD ILLUSTRATIVE QUOTATIONS.
COLLOQUIALISMS.
TECHNICAL WORDS.

Quotations. Inasmuch as it is often extremely difficult to render the exact shade of meaning of a dialect word or phrase into the literary language, it is necessary to rely, to a considerable extent, on the illustrative passage. Hence a sentence should be chosen which will most aptly illustrate the sense intended to be conveyed by the word. For this purpose, in addition to quotations from books, a collection of Local Proverbs and Common Sayings would also be very valuable.

Colloquialisms. This class of dialect is one which many of our workers are prone to overlook. By "colloquialisms" is meant the idiomatic use of literary English and peculiar grammatical usages. It has been noticed that persons most adept at picking out these forms of expression are generally those to whom the dialect is strange. A native of Holderness, for example, would be quicker to notice any such peculiarity in the Halifax dialect than a native of that town. It is safe to say therefore that *any expression which would puzzle a stranger to the locality* should be included as "dialect."

A few examples may be given:—

"Ah wor *fair done* for mi dinner."
"It's *abaht nowt*."
"Ah wor *ill set* to get through mi wark."
"Tha mun *think on*."
"She's *waintly o'er end*."

It may not be inadvisable to call the attention of workers to what is undoubtedly a fact: that there are phrases and expressions used by the "older generation," which have rarely, if ever, appeared in print, and it is quite possible that much that is new may yet be gleaned by independent observation and inquiry.

Technical and Trade Terms. The frequent appeals made for words of this class, have not met with that response from people possessing the desired information, which the importance of the subject deserves. The total number of slips bearing technical terms, sent in since the beginning of October is about 500.

There appears to be a singular misapprehension in the minds of many people as to the character of the words wanted. Persons engaged in some special branch of industry will firmly maintain, when appealed to, that their particular trade vocabulary contains no dialect; their idea of "dialect" being apparently, words which are somehow mispronounced. It seems almost ludicrous to be under the necessity of removing this misconception.

It cannot be too often repeated that *all* words are required, whether they are to be found in an "English Dictionary" or not, if they have a meaning assigned to them other than that usually ascribed to them in the literary language.

SUGGESTIONS AS TO METHODS OF COLLECTING TRADE TERMS. As efforts to induce employers of labour and operatives to compile lists have met with such indifferent success, the only course seems to be the "interviewing" of persons engaged in the various local industries. Opportunities of obtaining access to mills, warehouses, workshops, or other places where special work is carried on, should not be neglected.

Slips. Legible handwriting is of the first importance. The necessity of filling up slips in accordance with the Editor's instructions cannot be too strongly insisted upon. Every slip should bear, in addition to the word or phrase, its meaning, locality, an illustrative sentence, and source. Slips bearing technical terms should specify locality, definition, and source. The omission of any one of these items renders the slip useless. Much time may thus be wasted and valuable information lost.

S. K. CRAVEN,
Honorary Secretary.

41, CARLISLE STREET, BRADFORD,
March 5th, 1896.